

## I.

**T**HAT the number of Slaves annually carried from the Coast of Africa, in British vessels, is supposed to be about — — — 38,000.

That the number annually carried to the British West India Islands, has (on an average of four years, to the year 1787 inclusive) amounted to about — 22,500.

That the number annually retained in the said Islands, as far as appears by the Custom House accounts, has amounted, on the same average, to about - 17,500.

## II.

**T**HAT much the greater number of the Negroes, carried away by European vessels, are brought from the interior parts of the Continent of Africa, and many of them from a very great distance.

That no precise information appears to have been obtained of the manner in which these persons have been made Slaves.

But that from the accounts, as far as any have been procured on this subject, with respect to the Slaves brought from the interior parts of Africa, and from the information which has been received respecting the countries nearer to the Coast, the Slaves may in general be classed under some of the following descriptions.

1st. Prisoners taken in war.

2d. Free persons sold for debt, or on account of real or imputed crimes, particularly Adultery and Witchcraft; in which cases they are frequently sold with their whole families, and sometimes for the profit of those by whom they are condemned.

3d. Domestic Slaves sold for the profit of their Masters, in some places at the will of the Masters, and in some places, on being condemned for real or imputed crimes.

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4th.

4th. Persons made Slaves by various acts of oppression, violence, or fraud, committed either by the Princes and Chiefs of those Countries on their subjects, or by private individuals on each other, or lastly by Europeans engaged in this traffic.

III.

THAT the trade carried on by European Nations on the Coast of Africa, for the purchase of Slaves, has necessarily a tendency to occasion frequent and cruel wars among the natives, to produce unjust convictions and punishments for pretended or aggravated crimes, to encourage acts of oppression, violence, and fraud, and to obstruct the natural course of civilization and improvements in those Countries.

IV.

THAT the continent of Africa, in its present state, furnishes several valuable articles of Commerce highly important to the trade and manufactures of this kingdom, and which are in a great measure peculiar to that quarter of the Globe; and that the Soil and Climate have been found by experience well adapted to the production of other articles, with which we are now either wholly or in great part supplied by foreign nations.

That an extensive commerce with Africa in these commodities might probably be substituted in the place of that which is now carried on in Slaves, so as at least to afford a return for the same quantity of goods as has annually been carried thither in British vessels.

And lastly, That such a commerce might reasonably be expected to increase in proportion to the progress of civilization and improvement on that Continent.

V.

THAT the Slave Trade has been found by experience to be peculiarly injurious and destructive to the British Seamen who have been employed therein; and that the mortality among them has been much greater than in His Majesty's ships stationed on the Coast of Africa, or than has been usual in British vessels employed in any other trade.

VI.

THAT the mode of transporting the Slaves from Africa to the West Indies necessarily exposes them to many and grievous sufferings,



sufferings, for which no regulations can provide an adequate remedy; and that, in consequence thereof, a large proportion of them has annually perished during the voyage.

VII.

THAT a large proportion of the Slaves so transported has also perished in the harbours in the West Indies previous to their being sold. That this loss is stated by the Assembly of the Island of Jamaica at about four and a half per cent. of the number imported; and is, by medical persons of experience in that island, ascribed in great measure to diseases contracted during the voyage, and to the mode of treatment on board the ships, by which those diseases have been suppressed for a time, in order to render the Slaves fit for immediate sale.

VIII.

THAT the loss of newly-imported Negroes, within the first three years after their importation, bears a large proportion to the whole number imported.

IX.

THAT the natural increase of population, among the Slaves in the islands, appears to have been impeded principally by the following causes:

1st. The inequality of the number of the sexes in the importations from Africa.

2d. The general dissoluteness of manners among the Slaves, and the want of proper regulations for the encouragement of marriages, and of rearing children.

3d. Particular diseases which are prevalent among them, and which are in some instances attributed to too severe labour or rigorous treatment, and in others to insufficient or improper food.

4th. Those diseases which affect a large proportion of Negro children in their infancy, and those to which the Negroes newly imported from Africa have been found to be particularly liable.

X.

THAT the whole number of Slaves in the Island of Jamaica, in 1768, was about - - 167,000;

That the number in 1774, was, as stated by Governor Keith, about - - 193,000;

And, that the number in December 1787, as stated by Lieutenant Governor Clarke, was about - 256,000.

That, by comparing these numbers with the numbers imported into and retained in the Island, in the several years from 1768 to 1774 inclusive, as appearing from the accounts delivered to the Committee of Trade by Mr. Fuller; and in the several years from 1775 inclusive, to 1787 also inclusive, as appearing by the accounts delivered in by the Inspector General; and allowing for a loss of about one twenty-second part by deaths on ship-board after entry, as stated in the Report of the Assembly of the said Island of Jamaica, it appears,

That the annual excess of deaths above births in the Island, in the whole period of nineteen years, has been in the proportion of about seven-eighths per cent. computing on the medium number of Slaves in the Island during that period.

That in the first six years of the said nineteen, the excess of deaths was in the proportion of rather more than one on every hundred on the medium number.

That in the last thirteen years of the said nineteen, the excess of deaths was in the proportion of about three-fifths on every hundred on the medium number; and that a number of Slaves, amounting to 15,000, is stated by the Report of the Island of Jamaica to have perished, during the latter period, in consequence of repeated hurricanes and of the want of foreign supplies of provisions.

XI.

THAT the whole number of Slaves in the Island of Barbadoes was, in the year 1764, according to the account given in to the Committee of Trade by Mr. Braithwaite - - - - - 70,706.

That in 1774, the number was, by the same account 74,874.

In 1780, by ditto - - - - - 68,270.

In 1781, after the hurricane, according to the same account - - - - - 63,248.

In 1786, by ditto - - - - - 62,115.

That



That by comparing these numbers with the number imported into this Island, according to the same account (not allowing for any re-exportation) the annual excess of deaths, above births, in the ten years from 1764 to 1774, was in the proportion of about five on every hundred, computing on the medium number of Slaves in the Island during that period.

That in the seven years from 1774 to 1780, both inclusive, the excess of deaths was in the proportion of about one and one-third on every hundred, on the medium number.

That between the year 1780 and 1781, there appears to have been a decrease in the number of Slaves of about 5,000.

That in the six years from 1781 to 1786, both inclusive, the excess of deaths was in the proportion of rather less than seven-eighths in every hundred, on the medium number.

And that in the four years from 1783 to 1786, both inclusive, the excess of deaths was in the proportion of rather less than one-third in every hundred, on the medium number.

And that, during the whole period, there is no doubt that some were exported from the Island, but considerably more in the first part of this period than in the last.

## XII.

THAT the accounts from the Leeward Islands, and from Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent's, do not furnish sufficient grounds for comparing the state of population in the said Islands at different periods, with the number of Slaves which have been from time to time imported into the said islands, and exported therefrom.

But that, from the evidence which has been received respecting the present state of these Islands, as well as of Jamaica and Barbadoes; and from a consideration of the means of obviating the causes which have hitherto operated to impede the natural increase of the Slaves, and of lessening the demand for manual labour, without diminishing the profit of the Planter; it appears that no considerable or permanent inconvenience would result from discontinuing the farther importation of African Slaves.



I. 3. 1.

That the number of slaves imported into the island of St. Vincent, from the year 1783 to 1793, was 1,200. And that the number of slaves imported into the island of St. Vincent, from the year 1793 to 1803, was 1,200.

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And that, during the whole period, there is no doubt that some were exported from the island, but considerably more in the first part of the period than in the last.

XII.

THAT the accounts from the I. Edward Islands, and from Dominica, Grenada, and Saint Vincent, do not furnish sufficient grounds for comparing the rate of population in the said islands at different periods, with the number of slaves which have been from time to time imported into the said islands, and exported therefrom.

But that, from the evidence which has been received respecting the present state of the islands, as well as of Jamaica and Barbadoes; and from a consideration of the means of obtaining the causes which have hitherto operated to regulate the natural increase of the slaves, and of judging the demand for manual labour, without diminishing the stock of the planters; it appears that no considerable or permanent improvement would result from discontinuing the further importation of African slaves.